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DIARY

May 28, 1959

I had an official visit with the four Ministers who had been in Geneva and later held a luncheon for all of the foreign dignitaries present for Secretary Dulles' funeral.

My purpose was to thank both groups for their courtesy in paying their respects to a man that we, here, thought to be one of our greatest and, of course, in both cases, I wanted to try to help improve the atmosphere both in general and in the specific sense. I say specific because I am referring here to the atmosphere in which negotiations are being conducted in Geneva.

Gromyko was personally agreeable, laughing frequently, and expressing the hope that real progress could be made. I told the group that I was personally anxious that such progress be accomplished, because only in this way could America agree to go to a Summit meeting. To go without such progress would be not only an exercise in futility, but would have an adverse effect upon world thinking when it was understood that the meeting was condemned in advance to sterility.

Surprisingly Gromyko did not disagree with this in our office conversation, even though we know that the attitude of Khrushchev has been that any progress at the Foreign Ministers' level was of little concern or meaning. This comes about of course, at least in part, because of the relatively minor position held by Gromyko in the Soviet system. In that system there is only one boss and Gromyko is nothing but an errand boy.

Respecting the luncheon, each of the individuals present took the occasion, during the coffee period, to assure me of his nation's respect for Mr. Dulles and for the policies that Mr. Dulles and I have advocated and carried out. I asked each to convey to his respective head of government or state my personal thanks for the courtesy, and all in all, I think the meeting was worth while.

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